

REMARKS

The Final Office Action of September 9, 2005, and the Advisory Action dated December 2, 2005, have been received and reviewed.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 11-17, 22, 23, 40-52, and 55-74 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 11-16, 40-52, and 55-71 have been allowed. Claims 17, 22, 23, and 72-74 stand rejected.

It is proposed that claims 17, 22, 23, and 72-74 be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 17, 22, 23, and 72-74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

It is proposed that each of claims 17, 22, 23, and 72-74 be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering moot the 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) rejections of these claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the proposed that claims 17, 22, 23, and 72-74 be canceled and that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

The allowance of claims 1, 2, 6, 11-16, 40-52, and 55-71 is gratefully acknowledged.

Entry of Amendments

It is respectfully requested that claims 17, 22, 23, and 72-74 be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The cancellation of these claims eliminates all of the issues that remain for purposes of appeal, would not introduce new matter into the above-referenced application, and would not necessitate an additional search.

In the event that the proposed amendments are not entered, it is respectfully requeststed that they be entered upon the filing of a Notice of Appeal in the above-referenced application.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 2, 6, 11-16, 40-52, and 55-74 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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